PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATES, A PARTNERSHIP

APRIL 3 (legislative day, MARCH 30), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Hughes, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4981]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4981) for the relief of the Phoenix Construction Associates, a partnership, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 1866, Seventyseventh Congress, second session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[H. Rept. No. 1866, 77th Cong., 2d sess.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4981) for the relief of the Phoenix Construction Associates, a partnership, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows: Strike out all the language after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof: Strike out all the language after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof: "That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Phoenix Construction Associates, a partnership, the sum of \$5,000 in full settlement of all claims against the United States for property damage to the steam derrick lighter Bull, on or about March 2, 1939, while engaged in connection with the Works Progress Administration project of demolishing old pier 64, North River, New York Harbor, New York: Provided, That no part of the amount appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof shall be paid or delivered to or received by any agent or attorney on account of services rendered in connection with this claim, and the same shall be unlawful, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person violating the provisions of this Act the contrary notwithstanding. Any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$1,000."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill for the relief of the Phoenix Construction

Associates, a partnership."

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to pay the sum of \$5,000 to Perry W. Hughes and Edward J. Shannon, copartners, doing business under the firm name and style of Phoenix Construction Associates, as owners of the steam derrick lighter Bull, in full settlement of all claims against the United States for damages sustained by the lighter Bull on or about March 2, 1939, while the said lighter Bull was engaged in connection with the Works Progress Administration project of demolishing old pier 64, North River, New York Harbor, and of erecting a new pier in that locality.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The facts in this case are that during the period from November 30, 1938, to January 31, 1939, inclusive, the Works Progress Administration rented the steam derrick lighter Bull; that during February and March 1939 the city of New York, sponsor of the project, rented the lighter; that on March 2, 1939, the progress of the work required the moving of the lighter from the north side of the pier end to the south side, where a pile driver, owned by Allen Spooner & Sons, was operating; that at approximately 10:30 a. m., Andrew Garsik, labor foreman in charge of the men who operated and moved the lighter, a Works Progress Administration employee, was ordered by his immediate supervisor, Robert Mackenzie, assistant to the general superintendent, to move the lighter offshore; that before Garsik ordered the moving of the lighter, the captain of the Spooner pile driver advised him to be careful because "there was something there we might get hung on"; that Garsik had noticed broken piles there about 4 days prior to March 2, 1939, and he asked Robert Mackenzie if they were still there; that Robert Mackenzie replied, "Go right ahead; I am running this job, you do as I tell you"; that at 10:30, the tide was in and by noon it had ebbed; that the lighter was moved at about 10:30 a. m.; that at about 12:10 p. m., the lighter appeared to list and an inspection revealed that she was hung upon something which later proved to be a subumerged broken pile; that the bottom of the lighter was damaged, causing the lighter to become filled with water; and that all efforts to keep the lighter afloat were unavailing, and at about 2:30 p. m., it sank.

The lighter was under charter to the Works Progress Administration, and it

The lighter was under charter to the Works Progress Administration, and it was under its control at the time that this moving of the lighter was ordered. Mr. Dryden, Acting Commissioner of the Work Projects Administration, states that there is no doubt but that the damage was caused by the negligence of an employee of the Administration, and has no objection to this legislation, provided it is made for a definite amount of money, the amount to be determined by Con-

gress as representing the damages sustained by the claimant.

The claimant submitted an itemized account for \$7,268.23. The committee has gone into the claim thoroughly, and feels that \$5,000 is sufficient compensation for the lighter, and recommends favorable consideration to the bill, as amended. Appended hereto is the report of the Work Projects Administration together with other pertinent evidence.

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY,
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D. C., November 14, 1941.

Hon. DAN R. McGehee, Chairman, Committee on Claims, House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. McGehee: Reference is made to your letter of June 17, 1941, and the Administration's acknowledgement of June 18, 1941, relative to H. R. 4981, a bill conferring jurisdiction upon the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of New York to hear, determine, and render judgment upon certain claims against the United States of the Phoenix Construction Associates.

The Administration's report is as follows:

The bill proposes to confer jurisdiction "upon the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of New York, sitting as a court of admiralty and acting under the rules governing such court, to hear and determine the claim

of Perry W. Hughes and Edward J. Shannon, copartners, doing business under the firm name and style of Phoenix Construction Associates as owners of the steam derrick lighter Bull, against the United States of America in contract and in tort for injuries and damages sustained by the steam derrick lighter Bull on or about March 2, 1939, while the said lighter Bull was engaged in connection with the Works Progress Administration project of demolishing old pier 64, North River, New York Harbor, and of erecting a new pier in that locality, including claim for loss of use of the said lighter while undergoing repairs; and to enter judgment or decree for the amount of such damages, if any, plus interest and costs as shall be found to be due against the United States of America in favor of said Perry W. Hughes and Edward J. Shannon, copartners, doing business under the firm name and style of Phoenix Construction Associates, upon the same principles and measures of liability as in like cases in admiralty between private parties and with the same rights of appeal. The action being authorized shall be brought within

4 months from the date of the enactment of this act.'

The files of this Administration disclose that the derrick lighter Bull, which was owned by the Phoenix Construction Associates, was being operated in connection with the work on official project No. 665–97–2–5, which provided for the demolition of an existing obsolete pier and shed, No. 64, on the North River, at the foot of West Twenty-fourth Street, New York City, and for the construction of a modern pier and shed; that, during the period from November 1938 to January 21, 1220 ary 31, 1939, inclusive, the Works Progress Administration rented the lighter; that, during February and March 1939, the city of New York, sponsor of the project, rented the lighter; that, on March 2, 1939, the progress of the work required the moving of the lighter from the north side of the pier end to the south side where a pile driver, owned by Allen Spooner & Sons, was operating; that, at approximately 10:30 a.m., Andrew Garsik, labor foreman in charge of the men who operated and moved the lighter, a Works Progress Administration employee, was ordered by his immediate supervisor, Robert Mackenzie, assistant to the general superintendent, to move the lighter offshore; that, before Garsik ordered the moving of the lighter, the captain of the Spooner pile driver advised him to be careful because "there was something there we might get hung on"; that, Garsik had noticed broken piles there about 4 days prior to March 2, 1939, and he asked Robert Mackenzie if they were still there; that Robert Mackenzie replied "Go right ahead, I am running this job, you do as I tell you"; that, at 10:30 a.m., the tide was in and by noon it had ebbed; that the lighter was moved at about 10:30 a.m.; that, at about 12:10 p. m., the lighter appeared to list and an inspection revealed that the was hung upon separation revealed that the was hung upon separation which later proved to an inspection revealed that she was hung upon something which later proved to be a submerged broken pile; that the bottom of the lighter was damaged, causing the lighter to become filled with water; and that all efforts to keep the lighter afloat were unavailing and, at about 2:30 p. m., it sank.

A suit filed by the owners again the city of New York, in the United States

District Court, Eastern District of New York, was dismissed on June 20, 1940. The court ruled that the contract of charter was with the Works Progress Admin-

istration and not the city of New York when the damage occurred.

The evidence establishes that the lighter was in the custody of the Works
Progress Administration, and that the operation and the removal of the lighter was under the exclusive direction and control of employees of this Administration; that the lighter was moved into an area in which employees of the Works Progress Administration had knowledge of the existence of submerged broken piles; and that their failure to ascertain the exact location of the broken piles was the cause

In view of the above, which establishes that the damage was caused by the negligence of employees of the Works Progress Administration, no objection would be interposed if the Congress changed the present bill to provide for the appropriation of money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated in such amount as may be determined to represent the damages sustained by claimant. The expresses insidental to litigation could thought be avoided.

penses incidental to litigation could thereby be avoided.

Claimants have submitted a bill in the sum of \$7,268.23, for damages sustained as the result of the accident. However, this bill is not supported by any evidence to establish the expense incurred by them. Oscar Erickson, equipment inspector, Works Progress Administration, examined the lighter when it was in drydock and made a detailed report of the damage caused and the repairs necessary to be made. It is respectfully suggested that the claimant be required to submit itemized invalues to establish each item of itemized invoices to establish each item of expense, which would enable a comparison with Mr. Erickson's report. A determination of the fair amount of the A determination of the fair amount of the damages could thereby be reached.

A similar report is being rendered today to the Honorable Prentiss M. Brown, chairman, Committee on Claims, United States Senate, S. 1741, a bill identical with that of H. R. 4981.

There are enclosed photostatic copies of pertinent papers. Sincerely yours,

F. H. DRYDEN, Acting Commissioner.

Statement of damages sustained by derrick lighter "Bull" as a result of the accident of Mar. 2, 1931

Bill of Union Dry Dock & Repair Co., dated Mar. 13, 1939, receipted Mar. 16, 1939, covering repairs as per survey dated Mar. 6, 1939. Bill of Harry Heyman, dated Mar. 13, 1939, receipted Mar. 16, 1939 covering repairs to 1 oxygen regulator and 1 acetylene regulator which were on board at the time of the accident and damaged as a result of the submersion.	\$4, 822. 98	
Bill of Hudson Towboat Co., dated Mar. 12, 1939, receipted Mar. 17, 1939, covering towage of the derrick lighter Bull from drydock	12. 75	
to 24th St., North River Bill of Meseck Towing Lines, Inc., dated Mar. 2, 1939, receipted	19.00	1
Mar. 16, 1939, for pumping charges Bill of Carlisle Rubber Co., receipted Mar. 16, 1939, covering loss of	28, 13	
air hose, etc	33, 66	
Mar. 16, 1939, covering lost lines Bill of Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corporation, dated Mar. 6, 1939, receipted Mar. 16, 1939, covering salvage charges incurred in rais-	128. 02	
ing and floating the derrick lighter Bull———————————————————————————————————	1, 750. 00	
17, 1939, covering survey of the derrick lighter Bull	50. 00	
at the time of the accident	110. 50	
ing out the derrick lighter Bull prior to survey	97. 19	
day, 6 days	216. 00	
TotalAugust 10000 to the beautiful and	7, 268. 23	

Union Dry Dock and Repair Co., To Whom It May Concern:

We the indexistance of the indexistance o

 πK , was dismissed on June 20, 1940, was with the Works Progress Admin-

We, the undersigned, have this day held survey on the floating derrick Bull while she lay hauled out on drydock at the yard of the Union Dry Dock & Repair Co., Weehawken, N. J., and found the following necessary to repair the damage:

Boiler to be opened up, cleaned and closed in good order, and after repairs are completed to be tested.

Steam gage to be removed, reconditioned as necessary, and replaced. Safety valves to be removed, reconditioned and replaced and properly set. Smokestack umbrella out of place, to be reset and if found damaged

to be repaired as necessary.

Steam line to injector and syphon broken, broken parts to be renewed. Discharge line from air compressor and check valve on line broken, broken parts of line and the check valve to be renewed.

Steam line to air compressor broken, broken parts to be renewed.

Air tank to be blown out and gage to be removed, reconditioned, and replaced.

Upper section of each exhaust pipe of main engine bent, to be renewed. Some of the steam and exhaust piping in engineer room has been driven out of alinement due to racking of house—joints of piping to be released as necessary and piping that is found bent or broken to be renewed.

Bilge and ballast pump to be opened up, cleaned, and closed in good order. Main engine and trimming engine cylinders, valve chests, stuffing-boxes, brasses, bearings, frictions, and brake bands to be opened up, cleaned, and closed in good working order.

Bright work on engines to be refinished.

Link to brake of main drum bent, to be straightened.

Both quadrants for operating levers to be disconnected and after the house is realigned, to be replaced and all gear in connection with quadrants to be

faired and readjusted as necessary and put into proper working condition.

House 28' wide x 27' long x 17' high, driven over to port, racked and torn adrift from sill, to be realigned and rebuilt using all present material found in undamaged and serviceable condition and any damaged and broken parts to be renewed.

Fourteen (14) windows generally damaged and broken, to be repaired and

partly renewed as necessary.

Two (2) sliding doors at aft end of house damaged to be repaired and partly renewed as necessary and refitted to place.

Rubberoid roofing to be renewed.

Interior parts of house, such as work-bench, lockers, shelves, platforms,

stairway, etc., to be properly reconditioned.

Galvanized sheet lining in two (2) water tanks at stern buckled and torn to be renewed. Dimensions of each tank, 4' 8" high x 6' 10" wide x 18' 0" long. New lining of tanks to be proven tight.

The following hatch covers missing, to be renewed: Four $36'' \times 36''$ and two $36'' \times 36''$ on forward deck, three $36'' \times 42''$ and two $36'' \times 60''$ on stern

deck.

On port side amidships, the following hull planks broken, to be renewed. Bilge plank, 6" x 10"—38' Yellow pine. Bilge plank, 6" x 10"—32' Yellow pine. Bottom plank, 3" x 10"—36' Yellow pine.

On port side forward of amidships.
One (1) bilge plank, 6" x 10"—19" Yellow pine, broken to be renewed, on starboard side forward.

One (1) Bilge plank, 6" x 10"—15" Yellow pine, broken, to be renewed. One (1) wearing piece, 4" x 10"—6" oak, broken, to be renewed.

Goughed and broomed places principally on bilge planking on both sides of Hull to be dressed fair.

Coal and debris to be removed from house deck and hull. Hull to be washed out. Necessary bottom planks to be removed for cleaning and afterwards replaced, if broken to be renewed.

Coal to be replaced in bunker.

Bottom, sides, and stern to be recaulked.

Necessary removals for caulking, such as wearing pieces, stern corner stavings and corner irons and ice sheathing to be replaced in good order as before. Any parts broken to be renewed.

All new and repaired work to be properly fastened, caulked and painted

as before.

All removals to effect repairs to be replaced in good order as before.

Necessary dry docking to effect the above repairs.

We estimate and agree on the cost of the above repairs, not to exceed the sum of Forty-Eight Hundred and Twenty-Five (\$4,825.00) Dollars.

PERRY W. HUGHES, A. WILKIE, G. E. HYLIND, WM. M. FINKENAM, R. D. HARPER,

Surveyors.

UNION DRY DOCK AND REPAIR Co. VESSEL REPAIRS IN WOOD AND IRON

DRY DOCKS AND SHIPYARD, Weehawken, N. J., March 13th, 1939.

To: DERRICK LIGHTER "BULL," PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATES, No. 41 Park Row, New York City. Bill No.: 39-45.

To repairs as per survey and agreement dated Mar. 6, 1939

a collection and a collection of the collection	Amount	Total
Janled out on drydock 190-foot host	1 \$0, 60	\$72
lay days on drydock 120-foot boat. gallons gasoline 30 pounds oakum	2, 50	300
gallons gasoline	.17	138
7 nounds cotton	.23	3
44 oak ship wedges	.05	12 10
44 oak ship wedges 300 white pins spike plugs 6 pounds galvanized wire nails	. 83	10
	.08	6
25 nounds galvanized blunt holts	. 101	22
pitch mops barrels N. C. pitch	.10	5
barrels N. C. pitch	6.00	42
hacksaw blades	.05	37
hacksaw blades 7† pounds galvanized boat spikes 4 pounds galvanized wire spikes 5 pounds inseed oil putty 5 pounds insihing nails 6 pounds oak guard spikes 6 pound wire brads 7 pound wire brads 7 pound wire brads	.08	1
0 pounds linseed oil putty	.10	mer 1
gound finishing nails	.15	9
5 pounds oak guard spikes	10	17
6 nound wire brads	.15	rate.
		2
white pine bilge plug rolls heavy-weight roofing 0 pounds galvanized roofing nails	.15	00
rolls heavy-weight roofing	2, 50	20
yards canvas	.45	1
pound galvanized tacks	.15	
normale colvenies don't noile	.09	GWT.
gallon marine red paint	2,00	090 1
6 callon marine hull black point	2 20	1
formulas gavanized et nais- fagilion marine red paint sheet sandpaper fagilion marine hull black paint fagilion lead color paint lever handles	1.75	
lever handles	1. 25	5
24 ICCL VCHOW DIRE	. 14	110 124
,244 feet oak	.10	124
4 feet spruce 0 feet white pine siding	.10	8
4 feet white pine mould board	.08	1
gauges repaired.	11.50	23
Water tanks relined	04	221
water tanks relined 0 feet ½" galvanized fron pipe ½" salvanized iron coupling ½" z 2" square head machine bolts 1½" brass globe valve 1½" k ½" black sushing 1½" x ½" black bushing 1½" x 4" black nipple 1½" x 1½" black nipple 1½" y bras swing check valve 1½" x 7" black nipple 1½" y bras kipple 1½" y bras kipple 1½" y avanized ground joint union	.08	
½" x 2" square head machine bolts	. 03	
1½" brass globe valve	3. 25	30 3
1½" galvanized ground joint unions	.40	
11/2" x 4" block pushing	25	
1½" x 4½" black nipple	.28	
1½" x 20" black nipple	.40	
1½" x 18" black nipple	. 38	
1½" brass swing check valve	3.75	A 8
1½" galvanized ground joint union	.35	
1/4" black close nipple. 36"x 1/4" black nipples. 36" brass globe valve.	.15	
3%" x 1½" black nipples	. 04 1. 75	À .
36" brass globe valve	1.75	1
36" x 19" galvanized nipple	.14	
Supply fresh water		10
0 pounds cotton waste	.12	1
gallons kersonene oil	.12	
pounds lamp black gallons linseed oil	. 35 1, 25	tho 13
5 pounds grease	.10	
Square feet galvanized wire mesh	. 08	
gallons graphite cable grease	1.00	
38" 45-degree galvanized elbows	1.00	
hours, gasoline pump 42 hours, air tools 42 hours, air tools 45 hours, air tools 46 hours, air tools 47 hours, air tools 47 hours, air tools 48 ho	.90	127
hours, acetylene burner	4. 25	15
0 hours, electric lights	. 12	
0 hours, steam box	2.00	24
3 hours, sawing and planing hour, crane	1. 90 5. 00	24
hour, forge	1.90	1
100 house pipofittoes	1 45 1	182
56 hours pipelitters' helpers	1.15	64
112 hours, boilermakers 88 hours, boilermakers' helpers	1. 45	162
24 hours, foremen	1. 95	46
4 hours, painters	1. 25	40

¹ Per foot.

To repairs as per survey and agreement dated Mar. 6, 1939—Continued

56 TALK PLACE, NBW YORK, N. Y. Licent March 10, 1000	Amount	Total
1,026 hours, carpenters	1. 45 1. 95 1. 45 1. 95 1. 35 1. 45 1. 15 1. 15 1. 95 1. 75	1, 487.70 109.20 640.90 62.40 29.70 66.70 36.80 209.30 19.50 1.75 161.32
Total Total Total Total	78 80 85 5	4, 822. 98

Received payment, March 16, 1939.

UNION DRY DOCK & REPAIR CO. MIR. LOPE SALES CORPORATION

HARRY HEYMANN 136 Liberty Street NEW YORK

Ant Peace Prenne

Date: March 13, 1939 Invoice No.: 31339 Terms: Cash. Sold to: Phoenix Construction Associates, 41 Park Row, New York City. Rebuilt 1 oxygen regulator No. 19839_____Rebuilt 1 acetylene regulator (No. 22576)______ \$12.75 Delivered to: Foot of Twenty-fourth Street, North River. Received payment, March 16, 1939. HARRY HEYMANN.

HOBOKEN, N. J., March 12, 1939.

PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATES

To: HUDSON TOW BOAT Co., DR., Foot Sixth Street.

DERRICK "BULL"

Mar. 12: Services rendered towing derrick Bull from Union Dry Dock & Repair Yard, Weehawken, N. J., to 24th St., North River, 1 zone____ \$19.00 Paid, March 17, 1939. Hudson Tow Boat Co.,

By H. A. W.

NEW YORK, March 2, 1939.

PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION Co., (Attention Mr. Hughes and owners)

To: MESECK TOWING LINES, INC., Dr.

OUTER END PIER 60, N. R.

March 2: Pumping out lighter Bull at West Twenty-fourth Street, 11/2 hours at \$18.75 per hour____ Paid, March 16, 1939.

MESECK TOWING LINES, INC., E. C.

CARLYLE RUBBER Co., Inc.

64 PARK PLACE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sold to: Phoenix Construction Co., 41 Park Row, New	DATE: March 1 York City.	mod and
150 ft. (3-50's) ¾'' x 4 ply Air Hose6 Air King Cplgs. & Clamps att	\$0. 18 1. 00	\$27. 00 6. 00
Sales tax		33. 00 66
Total		_ 33. 66

ch 16, 1931.

WATERBURY ROPE SALES CORPORATION

401 Park Avenue

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

MARCH 13, 1939.

Sold to: Phoenix Construction Co., 41 Park Row, New York City, N. Y. Shipped to: The same—Derrick "Cow" 24th St. and North River, Ne City, N. Y.	w York
1 4½" cir. Waterbury brand pure manila guaranteed water-resistant rotproofed and permanently lubricated—734 pounds18 Less 5%18	\$132. 12 6. 61
Plus 2% N. Y. C. sales tax 10/2 100012 draw 1 vine will 10 10001 of the	125. 51
Total Total	128. 02

MERRITT-CHAPMAN & SCOTT CORPORATION

17 Battery Place Tault woll worden of

NEW YORK

Date March 6, 1939.

FLOATING DERRICK "BULL", OWNERS AND CONCERNED,	
Phoenix Construction Co.,	
41 Park Row, New York, N. Y.	

Delivery receipt enclosed.

March 3 and 4: Services of floating and portable salvage equipment with requisite personnel slinging, raising, patching and pumping out floating derrick "BULL" sunk in slip on north side of Pier 64, North River, N. Y., and delivering afloat at Union Dry Dock & Repair Co., Weehawken, N. J. As agreed \$1,76 Paid: March 16, 1939.

Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.
By J. C. Cipriano

WILLIAM MILNE FINKENAUR MARINE SURVEYOR AND CONSULTING ENGINEER

15 Whitehall Street

NEW YORK

MARCH 6, 1939.

Messis. Phoenix Construction Associates, 41 Park Row, New York City.

To: WILLIAM M. FINKENAUR, DR.

To: M. J. Rudolph Co., Inc., Dr.
DEALERS IN ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS COALS
Coal pockets, yards, and main office: 8-16 Sackett Street

BROOKLYN, February 22, 1939.

Phoenix Construction Associates, 41 Park Row, New York.

Date	Tons	Price	Amount
Feb. 22 Coal	12 13	\$8.50	\$102.00 110.50
2-percent sales tax			212. 50 4. 25
Total			216. 7

Received payment March 6, 1939.

M. J. RUDOLPH Co.

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